**BLOOR COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE PARENT & COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING NOTES**

Wednesday November 28, 2018

Attendees: Catherine Ford, Muhammad Nisar, Janet Webster, Karen Kane, David Hildebrandt, Michelle McBride, Aileen MacDonald, Patty Barrera, Hiang Hong, Kym Stadnyk (VP), Susana Arnott (Principal), Nora Rivaud (teacher rep)

Regrets: Catherine Shepard, Julie Chan and Suzie Kuntze

1. **IntroductIon & Welcome (Catherine Ford)**

Minutes passed.

1. **School Statement of Needs (SSON)**

Statement of Needs is used by the Superintendent to choose a new Principal. This is the only way for parents to have input into this process, and is unlike the process for choosing a Vice Principal.

Catherine will send a link on volunteering to sit in on the process of choosing a VP which she attended last year.

Changes from the draft include:

* emphasize each major skill set are equally important but that within each skill set the order of importance decreases
* under Technical Skills – the Principal should support acquisition of new and appropriate technology (under Planning & Organization)
* Addition under communications: Principal should communicate the school’s budget

Every year the administration creates a school improvement plan (can share w/student & parent council). Feedback is welcome. Note – Different principals would have different visions.

1. **Lending Library**

There was a suggestion to put the names of the books in the parent council lending library on website. Sign out could be done by the existing sheet or by a Google form. Another suggestions was to bring the books to parents council meetings where there are presentations or other special events, in addition to bringing the books to the main events such as the New Parent Council meeting or parent-teacher interviews. It was agreed that the books would not be brought to events nearer the end of the year, because the likelihood would be high that they would not be returned to parent council.

1. **By-Laws**

David passed around reference material for review.

There was significant discussion about the inclusion of additional council members including a community representative, student rep and other BCI staff (non-teaching) repre. The community representative could perhaps someone from the local BIA, Community Centre, a past parent, or a business owner. There could be more than one community member though they could not have more votes than the parents. Re: the student rep, Susana said we would have one for the next meeting. Student would need a specific time on the agenda so that they would not have to stay all meeting.

A list of bylaws was circulated to the group. Catherine commented that the tentative schedule was ambitious, given that the next 3 meetings have presentations and guest speakers or are a workshop.

Any comments on the bylaws should be sent to David.

1. **Website Development (P/C)**

The school Bloor CI website is not in our control and parents cannot add or change things as necessary. There have been recent changes so that the agendas and minutes are now more orderly, and the web page has been cleaned up of old material.

The TDSB uses the Google suite, which can be accessed through a teacher. Luis as given editing permission to Catherine, David & Suzi Catherine, David & Suzi Parent council chairs/co-chairs can also have direct access, if they set up a google account. This has been problematic in the past as access is very slow and the year is often half over before access is gained. Thoughts for items to be included include activities of council, volunteer needs, fundraising, the lending library, names of council members. It would be the main channel for communication.

1. **Fundraising**

There was a long discussion on fundraising, particularly about the kinds of things parent council can fundraise for. The local BIA has funding that can be donated to local schools. Susana sent email to the teachers asking what they want. She has received 2 emails back, which were shared with Aileen and the co-chairs. Requests so far include headsets for the drama class and a 3D printer. Aileen and Nisar will continue to work on this issue with Susana.

Air conditioning was an item that was discussed in depth. While air conditioners are cheap, the cost of installation is not. Plus, the electrical circuitry of old buildings like BCI would not likely be able to handle the electrical load. As well, there would likely be issues re: labour and VORs.

1. **School temperatures**

School temperatures can be unbearable. It was recommended that parents contact the Ward 9 School Trustee to complain. Teachers also have a health and safety representative. David spoke to ‘Fix Our Schools’/Save Our Schools.” The group deals with issues more from a provincial perspective but is willing to come to schools to talk about what they do. They frequently give presentations at Ward forums.

1. **Co-Chair’s Report**

Parent-Teacher Interview day/eve was successful. Less recruiting of new parents happens at this event now that the parents are able to speak at the grade 8 welcome event and the pink sheets are circulated at the beginning of the school year. Parents were asked if it is worth the time and effort to set up the booth for the parent-teacher interviews in in February? Susana suggested that parent council wear buttons instead and just circulate as everyone goes to their own interviews. This would encourage other parents to ask questions but wouldn’t require having parent council having to man a table. This suggestion was agreed to by council.

This year the pink forms have come in late. Council now has about 650 email addresses but many of them are two addresses for one parent or both parents in one family. Most of the emails have now been added to MailChimp.

1. **The Banner**

The banner has not been found despite a notice to teachers asking them to look and a school-wide search. Susana will do one more search before council decides to replace it. Having the banner is most important for the grade 8 welcome event in May, and then the new parent welcome in September. The design can be the same as the last version.

1. **Principal’s Report**

New School:

* Confirmed that there will be air conditioning in new building. Susana hasn’t received any official updates recently.
* Parents expressed concern with size of building. Susana gave the current numbers of the Bloor Collegiate – 925 students plus 160 at Alpha. Bloor is currently at 108% capacity, and has already exceeded the size projected for the new build. Her concern is that getting approval for changes in the build sets back the completion dates.
* Aileen offered to work on getting monthly updates of the new school, and find out what issues are.
* Susana pointed out that the protocols for building a high school are non-existent, as TDSB hasn’t built any for a long time. This can be an opportunity to urge TDSB to issue updates to the community and parents.

St Michael’s school

* Susana said that she had discussions with Guidance on how to discuss the event with students, should they be approached. It is possible that students at Bloor know students at St. Michael’s, and also possible that the expelled students from St Michael’s will be looking within the TDSB (or even Bloor) for a new school to attend. Susana hadn’t heard of any applications yet, but is paying attention to see what happens. She also had conversations with gym teachers, to remind them to be aware of student behavior in change rooms or sessions.
* Michelle suggested there be a conversation with the students about what is appropriate to be sent by cell phone. Susana stated that this conversation happens regularly with the individuals in the school, when lines are crossed.

Parental complaint process

* Nisar said that a few parents had expressed complaints to the BCI parent council about a particular teacher during the parent interview night.
* Susana requested that the parents primarily speak with the teacher to clarify issues, give the teacher a chance to respond and seek resolution. Then, if the concerns are not met – to either address the guidance department or Vice Principal, depending on the area of concern. Susan said that due process is followed at all times to seek resolution.

Optional Attendance/Siblings

* A concern was expressed that give BCI’s size, siblings might not able to attend under Optional Attendance.
* Susana stated that the policy for siblings probably won’t change, because of the TOPS programme now only takes up a quarter of the population of the school (where once is was closer to ½ or 1/3 of the student population), and does not have much of an impact on the school’s size. Bloor CI is currently listed as “limited” optional attendance.

Addition of VP Report

* Kim suggested that we add a VP report to the next agenda. She mentioned the recent dance and commended the teachers and Susana for giving their time, especially as the last child left at 11:15 with a parent. She suggested a teacher appreciation event. The Teacher Appreciation event last year was described - a buffet lunch made up of donations from parents and hosted by the Parent Council. All agreed it was a lovely event and would be happening annually.
* Kim reiterated that the headsets requested would be hugely beneficial to the music productions, plays and assemblies.

TDSB Census

* Susana said that the TDSB Census data had been released. In response to the rating of how positively students felt about their school experience, Bloor CI was #1 on the list.
1. **Other Business**

A suggestion was made that we order food for meetings as many parents are coming from work and don’t have time to get anything to eat before the meeting starts. It was agreed that while it would be too expensive to get food for large events (e.g., popular presentations), Susana agreed she could order pizza and would do so for the January meeting.

Susana explained the school’s washroom policy: teacher calls out ‘staff’ prior to entering the washroom.

Tobacco enforcement officers have come in, and there is now new signage. The signage includes the distance requirements one has to be from the building, and now also includes a prohibition on e-cigarettes and vaporizers.

**Meeting adjourned** at 9:07PM